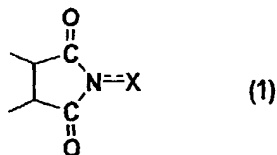


ABSTRACT

A reaction product and an imide compound can be separated from a reaction mixture obtained by reacting a substrate in the presence of the imide compound having an  
5 imide unit represented by the following formula (1):



wherein X represents an oxygen atom, a hydroxyl group or an acyloxy group

by (A1) a solvent-crystallization step for  
10 crystallizing the imide compound with at least one solvent selected from the group consisting of a hydrocarbon, a chain ether and water, (A2) a cooling-crystallization step for crystallizing the reaction product by cooling, or (B) an extraction step for distributing the reaction product into  
15 a phase of a water-insoluble solvent and the imide compound into a phase of an aqueous solvent, respectively by using the aqueous solvent containing at least water and the water-insoluble solvent separable from the aqueous solvent. Further, the imide compound and the metal catalyst can be  
20 separated from a mixture containing the imide compound and the metal catalyst by (C) a solvent-crystallization step for crystallizing the imide compound by using a solvent for crystallization, (D) an absorption step for absorbing the metal catalyst by an absorption treatment, or (E) an

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